

Hostility to Granvelle.

to withdraw them at the beginning of 1561, under pretext of requiring their services against the Moors. But he was inexorable in the matter of the bishoprics, and Granvelle, as the reluctant champion of the high-handed scheme, was exposed to all the odium which should mainly have fallen on his master. His arrogance was heightened by the cardinal's hat, and aggravated the hatred of his haughty opponents. "The arrogance of this prelate," says M. Gachard, "was extreme. His desire of domination knew no bounds, and the secretary Erasso, who knew him intimately, painted him to the life when he wrote to Count Egmont that his character had always been to pretend that all should be subject to him." His energy in putting in force the renewed edict of 1550, now that the conclusion of the war with France left him free to do so, roused the bitterest hatred of the people. The Rederijkers ridiculed and execrated him in verse and prose, and, while the people took their revenge in caricature and satire, the magnates bombarded Philip with epistolary denunciations and petitions for his removal. The cardinal parried these attacks by counter denunciations in letter after letter to Madrid. There was some truth in his animadversions, for the motives of patriotism and disinterestedness cannot be predicated of many of his opponents. Nor was Granvelle, if we may trust his letters to Philip, the wholesale enemy of the liberties and privileges of his adopted country. He was no indiscriminating champion of Spain and the Spaniards. But he was determined to maintain the government as concentrated in himself. He would not surrender his supremacy, and the war to the knife between him and his adversaries raged with increasing bitterness, as the correspondence with Madrid shows. For two years the epistolary duel continued without intermission. Intrigue gave place to open and bitter conflict, and the continuance of this conflict brought government to a deadlock. The provincial Estates would give no further subsidies. Orange, Egmont, Horn, resigned their seats in the Council of State, and demanded the convocation of the States-General. The knights of the Golden Fleece met to insist on the cardinal's dismissal. In this deadlock even the duchess lost faith in the domineering prelate, whom nobles and people joined in detesting and aspersing—not